



Sheila Dixon

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Mayor Sheila Dixon Announces Expansion of Canton Waterfront Park

Baltimore, MD (June 27, 2007) – Continuing her commitment to make Baltimore a cleaner, greener city, Mayor Sheila Dixon announced today a partnership with Hale Properties to expand and enhance Canton Waterfront Park and nearby Bonvegna Field. Hale Properties currently manages Du Burns Arena under a partnership agreement with the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Under the partnership agreement, which requires Board of Estimates approval, the existing non-park functions at the waterfront park (a transportation maintenance yard and solid waste trash skimmer facility) will be relocated to other facilities by 2009, expanding the park's size by approximately two acres. The Department of Recreation and Parks will assume control of the entire park, which is restricted from private development by an underlying Program Open Space designation. Prior to assuming control of the park, Recreation and Parks staff will conduct community meetings to gather their input on the future of that portion of the park.

Under the agreement, Hale Properties will assume day-to-day landscaping and maintenance of the entire park, with the exception of Maryland Korean War Memorial located in the park. Hale Properties has also agreed to upgrade the playing surface and add an artificial turf cover, lighting and other minor amenities at Bonvegna Field, located across the street from Canton Waterfront Park. The agreement would not eliminate or downsize the existing Canton Dog Park or basketball court located at the north end of the complex.

"Our waterfront is one of the most valuable resources we have, and every citizen deserves access to the water and a green, peaceful area around it," said Mayor Dixon. "I am very pleased that we are able to expand the park, strengthen our partnership with one of our best corporate citizens, and provide yet another great recreational opportunity to the people of Baltimore."

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